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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. Washington, D. C. October 18, 1954 SS143

Crops Improved Slightly During September

Total crop production prospects improved slightly during September but are about 4 percent less than the 1953 total. The total for 1954, at 99 percent of the 1947-49 base, ties with 1951 for fifth-largest, despite drought in a large area and acreage restrictions on several crops.

September Weather Dry and Warm

Weather during September was mostly dry and extremely warm, although some droughty portions received helpful reviving rains late in the month. Intermittent rains delayed harvest operations in most of the strip across the entire northern part of the country, causing harvesting losses and lowering quality of crops. Otherwise, weather ranged from favorable to ideal for maturing and harvesting most crops, and good progress was made. Frosts during September caused relatively little damage and the delay in killing frosts until about October 7-8 permitted most corn and soybeans to mature. Drought continued in much of the southern part of the country east of the Rocky Mountains, limiting yields of most late-growing crops, except cotton, and preparation of fields and seeding of fall grains. But in other important agricultural areas, yields of crops improved and fall work progressed about normally.

Increases and Decreases in Crops During September

Improved yield prospects since September 1 raised the estimates for cotton, alfalfa hay, soybeans, sorghum grain, sugar beets, potatoes, apples, peaches, and pears.

No new estimates were made this month for winter wheat, rye, dry peas, and broomcorn.

Declines were noted in prospects for most other crops, with flaxseed down 5 percent, dry beans nearly 4 percent, peanuts about 7 percent, and slight decreases for corn, spring wheat, oats, barley, rice, sweetpotatoes, tobacco, sugarcane, and grapes.

Corn Prospects 7 Percent Below 1953

Corn crop prospects dropped 23 million bushels during September, and as of October 1 the indicated total was 2,950 million bushels--7 percent smaller than the 1953 crop and 4 percent below average. Of the total crop, 2,630 million bushels are expected to be harvested for grain, compared with 2,870 million bushels in 1953 and the 10-year average

of 2,768 million bushels. In areas where drought and searing temperatures limited or prevented pollination, little grain corn was produced and the crop provides little but forage or silage. In most northern Corn Belt areas, corn is of excellent quality as almost ideal August-September growing conditions permitted full maturity. Picking had started on a small scale by October 1.

October Cotton Crop Estimate Larger Than Month Earlier

A cotton crop of 12,511,000 bales was forecast as of October 1. This is nearly 6 percent larger than the forecast a month earlier and compares with the 1953 crop of 16,465,000 bales and the 10-year average of 12,488,000 bales.

Hay and Pasture

With additional cuttings of late hay crops, the total increased 2.1 million tons over the September 1 forecast to nearly 106 million tons. The 1953 crop totaled 105 million tons and the 1943-52 average was 102 million tons. The supply per animal unit is adequate for the country as a whole, although much has already been consumed in supplementing scant pasture feed.

Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	Sept. 1954
Prices received by farmers.....	1910-14=100	246
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & wage rates	1910-14=100	280
Parity ratio	1910-14=100	88
Farm wage rates	1910-14=100	1 502
Wholesale prices of food	1947-49=100	2 105
Retail prices of food	1947-49=100	2 114
Weekly factory earnings.....	1947-49=100	2 135

Production Comparisons

Commodity	Jan-Sept. 1953	Jan.-Sept. 1954
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	95.1	97.6
Eggs, (bil.)	47.1	49.0
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3 5,964	3 6,367
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.)	3 6,284	3 5,912
Lamb & mutton, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3 413	3 426
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3 13,190	3 13,294

¹October figure.

²August figures.

³January - August under federal inspection.

Pastures were furnishing good to excellent grazing in a northern strip across the entire country, but were mostly poor elsewhere, particularly in the southern part of the country east of the Rocky Mountains. Wheat pastures are furnishing practically no grazing now; range pastures are reported in the poorest condition since 1934.

Feed Grains

Nearly 120 million tons of feed grains will be produced in 1954. With the farm carryover of these grains plus the new crop, the farm supply of feed grains per animal unit to be fed will be ample, though not as large as last year.

	Mil. bu.	1954 crop
Corn	2,950	near-average
Oats	1,506	second-largest
Barley	367	second-largest
Sorghum grain...	147	above-average

Grain Stocks on Farms October 1, 1954

	1,000 bushels	
Corn for grain .	357,950	9% larger than on Oct. 1, 1953
Wheat	436,769	nearly a fourth less than year ago
Oats	1,191,309	topped only in 1945
Barley	225,104	largest since the 1940-43 period
Rye	14,522	largest since 1943
Flaxseed	24,428	largest in 8 years of record
Sorghum grain .	3,168	smallest of 8 years of record
Soybeans	520	Record low

Oilseed Tonnage Increases

An oilseed tonnage 2 percent larger than a month earlier is now in prospect, as improved outturns of cottonseed and soybeans more than offset declines in flaxseed and peanuts.

More Deciduous Fruit Than in 1953

The expected tonnage of all deciduous fruits is about 1 percent more than in 1953, but 7 percent below average. Harvest of late fruit crops is progressing satisfactorily.

Apples	103 mil. bu.	above 1953; below 1943-52 average
Pears	30 mil. bu.	above 1953; below average
Grapes	2.7 mil. tons	about same as 1953; 9% below average
Peaches	61 mil. bu.	5% below 1953; 8% below average
Cranberries	1 mil. bbls.	17% below record 1953; 27% above average

Citrus Crops

Growing conditions during September were generally favorable for the development of citrus crops. Harvest of 1954-55 orange and grapefruit crops was started in September. For early and midseason oranges, the outlook is better than last season, but for grapefruit the 1954-55 outturn will be less than last season or average.

January-September Milk Production Above 1953

September milk production totaled 9,391 million pounds, up slightly from a year ago. January-September production is 2.5 billion pounds larger than in the first 9 months of 1953.

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers

Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Sept. 15, 1953	Aug. 15, 1954	Sept. 15, 1954
Prices received by farmers	257	251	246
Crops	235	250	247
Food grains	219	228	233
Feed grains and hay	207	207	210
Tobacco	452	430	444
Cotton	280	288	292
Fruit	204	235	248
Coml. veg. for fresh mkt.	191	223	170
Oil-bearing crops	251	294	276
Livestock and products	276	251	245
Meat animals	299	287	277
Dairy products	275	245	253
Poultry and eggs	230	178	162
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities	259	264	263
Commodities used in living	270	277	274
Commodities used in production	247	250	251
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates	277	282	280
Parity ratio (prices received to prices paid by farmers)	93	89	88

Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and unit	Average Price		Parity price
	Aug. 15, 1954	Sept. 15, 1954	Sept. 15, 1954
Wheat, bu. dol.	2.03	2.07	2.48
Corn, bu. dol.	1.53	1.53	1.80
Peanuts, lb. ct.	11.4	11.4	13.5
Cotton, Amer. upland, lb. . . ct.	34.00	34.55	34.84
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.41	1.16	1.50
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	21.60	19.70	20.60
Beef cattle, 100 lb. dol.	15.90	16.10	21.00
Calves, 100 lb. dol.	15.80	15.80	23.20
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	18.50	17.80	22.80
Butterfat, lb. ct.	55.7	55.8	74.2
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . dol.	3.89	4.10	4.70
Chickens, live, lb. ct.	21.5	19.2	29.7
Eggs, doz. ct.	37.4	33.8	46.5

¹ Preliminary.

January-September Egg Production 4% Above Year Earlier

Poultry flocks set new September records for total egg production and production per layer. Farm flocks laid 4,604 million eggs--10 percent more than a year earlier and 28 percent above average. Eggs per layer totaled 13.3, compared with 13.1 in September 1953 and the average of 11.3 eggs. Egg production during the first 9 months of this year was 49,037 million eggs--4 percent more than in 1953 and 7 percent more than the average.

Farm Wage Rates Down Slightly; Employment up Seasonally

Wage rates paid hired farm workers about October 1 continued the downward trend that started early in the year. The index of farm wages dropped 1 percent from July and is now 4 percent below January 1 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ percent less than a year earlier.

The number of people at work on farms in late September was up about a million and a half from a month earlier to 11,224,000 as cotton picking became general in the South. However, there were nearly 100,000 fewer people doing farm work than a year earlier. A small increase in the number of hired workers was not enough to offset a decrease in the number of family workers.

Livestock Numbers

A new AMS report shows trends in each kind of livestock in each major producing region in the U. S. since 1910. For the most part it is a source of data rather than an interpretation. For details see "Regional Trends in Livestock Numbers," Stat. Bull. 146.

Cattle on Feed October 1, 1954

Cattle on grain feed for market on October 1 in the three leading cattle-feeding Corn-Belt States--Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska--totaled 1,305,000 head. This is 3 percent less than the 1,341,000 head on feed October 1, 1953, and about 1 percent more than the 1,288,000 head on October 1, 1952. During the next 3 months cattle feeders intend to market 70 percent of the number on feed October 1.

The number of cattle on feed in California feed lots on October 1, 1954, was estimated at 433,000 head, 41 percent more than the 307,000 on feed a year earlier.

One Farm Worker Supplies 18 Persons

In 1820 each of the 2.4 million farm workers produced enough for himself and slightly more than 3 other persons. A hundred years later, in 1920, each of the 13.4 million farm workers produced, on the average, enough food, fiber, and tobacco to supply himself and more than 7 additional persons. In 1953, farm employment had dropped to 8.6 million workers, and each produced enough for the support of himself and almost 17 additional consumers. For additional information see "Changes in Farm Production and Efficiency," PERB 3, issued by the Agricultural Research Service.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, June 1954^{1 2}

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine.....	9,294	2,643	11,937
New Hampshire.....	4,987	917	5,904
Vermont.....	7,672	764	8,436
Massachusetts.....	10,929	4,146	15,075
Rhode Island.....	1,403	601	2,004
Connecticut.....	9,728	2,654	12,382
New York.....	48,427	25,504	73,931
New Jersey.....	18,027	20,792	38,819
Pennsylvania.....	44,764	15,448	60,212
North Atlantic Region.....	155,231	73,469	228,700
Ohio.....	50,760	44,982	95,742
Indiana.....	55,926	48,764	104,690
Illinois.....	81,804	79,328	161,132
Michigan.....	32,540	30,166	62,706
Wisconsin.....	71,172	9,975	81,147
East North Central Region...	292,202	213,215	505,417
Minnesota.....	60,788	20,720	81,508
Iowa.....	127,018	15,771	142,789
Missouri.....	54,831	29,603	84,434
North Dakota.....	10,325	15,397	25,722
South Dakota.....	23,391	10,450	33,841
Nebraska.....	49,020	30,246	79,266
Kansas.....	29,808	55,847	85,655
West North Central Region..	355,181	178,034	533,215
Delaware.....	6,667	5,558	12,225
Maryland.....	14,953	18,186	33,139
Virginia.....	23,173	12,132	35,305
West Virginia.....	7,641	2,748	10,389
North Carolina.....	17,800	11,645	29,445
South Carolina.....	6,961	15,301	22,262
Georgia.....	20,751	55,363	76,114
Florida.....	11,629	21,861	33,490
South Atlantic Region.....	109,575	142,794	252,369
Kentucky.....	21,408	7,229	28,637
Tennessee.....	17,200	6,335	23,535
Alabama.....	13,480	6,406	19,886
Mississippi.....	12,108	3,461	15,569
Arkansas.....	14,659	6,711	21,370
Louisiana.....	8,987	2,529	11,516
Oklahoma.....	24,319	36,953	61,272
Texas.....	63,365	70,602	133,967
South Central Region.....	175,526	140,226	315,752
Montana.....	10,917	3,390	14,307
Idaho.....	11,902	4,315	16,217
Wyoming.....	3,879	609	4,488
Colorado.....	15,116	14,565	29,681
New Mexico.....	4,866	2,053	6,919
Arizona.....	5,997	13,192	19,189
Utah.....	5,505	4,113	9,618
Nevada.....	1,551	282	1,833
Washington.....	14,988	23,975	38,963
Oregon.....	12,793	23,508	36,301
California.....	76,351	138,862	215,213
Western Region.....	163,865	228,864	392,729
United States.....	1,251,580	976,602	2,228,182

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

² For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash receipts from farming, United States¹

Source	July 1954	Aug. 1954 ²
	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Farm marketings and CCC loans ³	2, 228	2, 557
Livestock and products	1, 251	1, 350
Meat animals	624	
Dairy products	359	
Poultry and eggs.....	246	
Other	22	
Crops	977	1, 207
Food grains	298	
Feed crops	147	
Cotton (lint and seed)	39	
Oil-bearing crops.....	32	
Tobacco	59	
Vegetables.....	196	
Fruits and tree nuts.....	144	
Other	62	
Government payments.....	18	12
Total cash receipts	2, 246	2, 569

¹For comparisons for cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

²Preliminary.

³Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1953 average.....	\$1, 002	\$452	\$550	45%
1953--August	1, 017	461	556	45
1954--July	994	426	568	43
Aug. ³	989	430	559	43

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

³Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

Farm production: Index Numbers of Total Output, Gross Production of Livestock and Crops, by Groups, and Related Indexes, United States

(1947-49 = 100)

Item	1951-53	1953	Indicated 1954 ²
Farm output.....	106	108	107
All livestock and products ³	112	114	119
Meat animals	114	114	120
Dairy products.....	102	106	108
Poultry and eggs.....	123	127	133
All crops ⁴	102	103	99
F Feed grains.....	100	101	102
Hay and forage	107	107	111
Food grains	94	96	83
x Vegetables	97	100	96
Fruits and nuts	102	100	106
Sugar crops	98	107	115
Cotton	109	115	88
Tobacco.....	110	102	107
Oil crops	104	101	114
Feed used by farm horses and mules ⁵	65	57	51
Cropland used	100	100	100
Crop production per acre ⁶	102	103	99
Animal units of breeding livestock ⁷	104	103	107
Livestock production per breeding unit ⁷	108	111	111

Prepared jointly by Agricultural Research Service and Agricultural Marketing Service.

¹For historical data and explanation of indexes, see "Changes in Farm Production and Efficiency," PERB 3, ARS.

²Indications for 1954 based on October 1954 "Crop Production" report and other releases of the Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS.

³Includes minor livestock products not included in the separate groups shown.

⁴Includes production of some miscellaneous crops not in separate groups shown.

⁵Hay and concentrates only. Not included in farm output.

⁶Index of crop production per acre is a ratio of total crop production to total land used for crops. It differs from the AMS index of yields per harvested acre of 28 crops.

⁷Animal units and production exclude horses and mules.

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